

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(2)(i)-(ii), please cancel the entire paragraph on page 4, line 23 to Page 5 line 9, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

-- [0027] Wavelength interleaving cross-connects pass a first optical signal including channels from a first set of optical frequencies in a first direction and a second optical signal including a second set of optical frequencies in a second direction. In one embodiment, the first optical signal, when input to a first input/output (I/O) port, is routed from the first I/O port to a second I/O port. The first optical signal, when input to a third I/O port, is routed from the third port to a fourth I/O port. The second optical signal, when input to the fourth I/O port, is routed from the fourth I/O port to the first ~~second~~ I/O port. The second optical signal, when input to the third I/O port, is routed from the third I/O port to the second ~~first~~ I/O port. Thus, by coupling an optical device (e.g., amplifier, filter) between the second port and the fourth ~~third~~ port, the optical device can be used for bidirectional communications thereby reducing the number of devices required for a bi-directional optical network architecture.--